

UNITED STATES HAS THE HEAVIEST SIEGE BATTERY IN THE WORLD

Siege Guns of Battery O, Seventh Artillery, Are of Seven-Inch Calibre.

EFFECTIVE AT NINE MILES

Were Once on Board a Transport To Be Taken to China for Boxer Troubles.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE HERALD.] LEAVENWORTH, Kan., Saturday. —IME was when a city surrounded by a high and thick wall and looked upon as secure from invaders of an opposing army and sieges were laid to it to force capitulation by starving out its defenders.

When the Boxer uprising took place in China, in 1900, the Allied armies had no guns with calibre heavy enough to force breaches in the walls of Peking before that city, but the United States army came to the fore and an urgent message was sent to the War Department at Washington for the Sixteenth battery, siege artillery, then stationed at Fort Riley, Kan. This battery's guns, of 7-inch calibre, the heaviest in the world, were deemed necessary, but after the battery had been loaded on a special train, hurried to San Francisco and there loaded aboard a transport, a cablegram was received that the rebellious forces had surrendered to the "allies" and the government had lost an opportunity of testing its heavy ordnance.

In the event of a war with China or any other nation whose principal cities are surrounded by walls, the Sixteenth battery will be the first ordered to the front. The guns of this battery are the heaviest in the world, capable of following an army on its march through all kinds of weather; they are the most powerful land guns ever manufactured.

This battery was organized at Washington Barracks, D. C., in March, 1899, as Siege Battery O, Seventh Artillery. Under the act of Congress, approved February 2, 1901, providing for the reorganization of the army, doing away with regimental organizations in the artillery arm, the bat-



Prize Winning Section, Sixteenth Battery, Siege Artillery

tery was designated as the Sixteenth field artillery. Before its organization it was not deemed possible for guns of its weight and power to be handled in a practical manner on land, but this has been demonstrated as false, as the artillerymen have been able to take it almost everywhere and yet keep up with a marching army. The guns are drawn by eight powerful horses, and on two occasions the entire battery has made long marches from Fort Leaven-

worth to Fort Riley for target practice through the flooded lands along the Kansas River in battalion formation with light batteries, and has never failed to make camp at night with the other organizations. The guns of the Sixteenth are 7-inch calibre, weigh complete 10,000 pounds and fire a projectile weighing 105 pounds. This projectile travels the rate of 1,600 feet per second muzzle velocity, and it can be hurled a distance of seven miles and still

be effective. The gun barrels are the 7-inch howitzer, model 1898, weigh 3,550 pounds, have a total length of eight feet and the powder chamber has a diameter of 7.2 inches. They can fire either cast iron shell, steel projectile or shrapnel. The shrapnel is effective at seven miles and the steel projectile at nine miles. A steel shot would plough through an ordinary stone wall at seven miles, and at a distance of 3,500 yards it would penetrate 25 inches of steel.

The battery consists of five officers, 100 men, 104 horses, four guns and four caissons, two artillery wagons, two battery and four forage wagons and a train of twelve escort wagons. When in actual service seventy-two mules are provided to draw the latter.

These ponderous guns can be moved much more quickly and get into action more speedily than even the 5-inch batteries. The prize winning section of the

Sixteenth at a field day held at Fort Leavenworth during the last summer entered into competition with the Twenty-ninth battery, whose equipment is the 3-inch gun. The batteries ran a certain distance, went into action and discharged three shots. The Sixteenth won in just three minutes and forty-five seconds, while the lighter battery was some seconds slower. The detonation from the discharge of the guns broke out several win-

Heavy Pieces Have Been Taken on Long Marches and Were Ever in the Van.

HANDLED WITH GREAT EASE

In Competition They Are Put in Action Quicker Than Lighter Three-Inch Guns.

down lights in the army post. The guns are breech loading.

Since word has come from Washington that the government intends assembling thirty-six thousand men in the Philippines for the purpose of transporting them to China in the event of trouble, the battery, has been equipped with new harness for horses, wagons have been repaired and repainted and it has been inspected by Colonel Hall, commanding the post of Fort Leavenworth. While the officers of the battery insist that the orders have been received to prepare for field service they confidently expect such and will be prepared at a moment's notice to board cars.

The only other siege battery in the United States Army, the Eleventh, is stationed at Fort Hamilton, N. Y. This battery is equipped with the 6-inch siege howitzer. It had been intended to remove the Sixteenth from Fort Leavenworth to Buffalo, N. Y., and the government planned to build for it at that place barracks, gun shed and stables, but now that trouble is likely to ensue in the Far East the Sixteenth will remain at this Western post until an indefinite date, as it can be more speedily transported to the Pacific coast from here. It had been planned to place the siege batteries at army posts along the Canadian border for use should any serious trouble arise there, but these plans have been changed.

The men of the Sixteenth have never been able to test their big guns against an enemy, and while they have become expert in getting into action during practice they feel that with an actual enemy before them they will open the eyes of the civilized world and cause a general reorganization of the artillery in the armies of all nations.

Dictionary Makers Are Getting Ready to Record Simplified Spelling of the English Language

Lexicographers Declare That if Usage Justifies They Are Willing to Modify Orthography.

AMERICAN PUBLIC IS THE ACADEMY

DICTIONARY makers of the new school do not frown on originality in spelling, for they are pledged to the movement financed by Andrew Carnegie, which has for its object the simplification of English orthography. It was not so many years ago that the compilers of lexicons were regarded as making usage and as being laws unto themselves. The first great American lexicographer, Noah Webster, whose house still stands near Yale University, at New Haven, was one who struck out for himself into the spelling industry and set a few standards which the people of the United States were supposed to follow.

He did, as a matter of fact, bring about some of the arrangements of letters which are accepted, at least on this side of the water. He was the original foe of the "u" in such words as honor. Some of his reforms have fallen by the wayside and others he actually abandoned himself. The dictionary makers of the present, however,

are watching the development of language and are simply recording the usage as it becomes established.

Such men as the editor of the Century Dictionary, Dr. Benjamin E. Smith; the etymological editor of the same publication, Dr. C. F. G. Scott, and the Rev. Dr. Isaac K. Funk, the publisher and editor-in-chief of the Standard Dictionary, look kindly upon the proposed reforms and have become among the zealous advocates of a simpler spelling. They have all joined the Simplified Spelling Board and are taking an active part in the plans for the campaign of education in behalf of an easier spelling.

While not committed to the so-called phonetic spelling, the employment of which would make the printed language look like the original Niebelungen Lied, they favor the dropping of the superfluous letters in many words which are now in common use. The Standard Dictionary has already incorporated some of the new spellings into the text, while the Century in an appendix carries 3,600 examples of the new simplified orthography.

PUBLIC VERDICT COUNTS.

It is now a question as to how soon the words which have been melted up and newly minted get into circulation. The dictionary makers will help some, but they are wailing, however, for the public, to pass its verdict before they accept the new verbal currency. Individuality and independence in spelling are therefore encouraged, and the sooner the people take up with the new order the sooner will the dictionaries begin to stamp the language with the proposed dies.

Dr. Benjamin E. Smith, the editor of the Century Dictionary, was found last week digging among the roots of the language in these days, when there is likely to be verbal transplanting, the lexicographers are busy men.

"Dictionary editors," said he, "must wait for the verdict of the public on the spelling of words. It is not within our province to dictate how the people shall spell. We do not make spelling, but simply record it. If the public adopts a spelling and the best authors and scholars declare in favor of a certain orthography we must conform to that standard. It is difficult to say when a spelling should be adopted, for there are so many factors to be taken into consideration."

"That the spelling of the English language could be greatly simplified is beyond question. Many spellings are fixed by custom, for instance, which have no real authority. Here is the word tongue. If it should now be printed 'tong' it would look strange upon the page, and many persons would object to it. Yet why should it be spelled 'tongue'? As a matter of fact, there is absolutely no authority for it. It is an Anglo-Saxon word and should really be 'tunge'. It is tongue because some one made the mistake of thinking that it was connected with the Latin equivalent, lingua, and the spelling which is now in vogue. Yet in its present form it is an obstacle to the teaching of English spelling to children. The pupil finds that 't-u-n-g' spells 'tongue', that 't-u-n-g' is sung, but when he comes to the word 'tongue' all analogy fails and he loses his confidence. It is necessary for the child to form an eye picture of every word rather than to be guided by the sense of hearing."

PHONETICS IMPOSSIBLE.

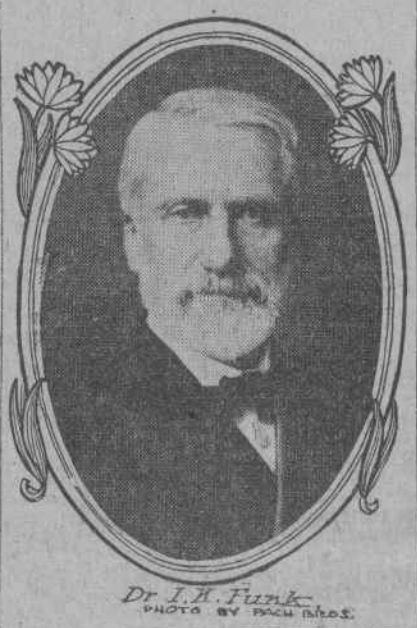
"It is impossible to make the spelling of the English language entirely phonetic, for custom has fixed many spellings which probably will never be changed. There is no way in which a spelling can be forced upon the people. Here in the United States we have no academy which can give the laws of usage. There are not enough characters in English to carry out a strictly phonetic scheme of spelling. Yet I believe that orthography can be much improved. The reforms will not make the language look strange as it appears on the printed page, and indeed many of them are being adopted."

Dr. Charles F. Scott, the etymological editor of the Century Dictionary, is the secretary of the Simplified Spelling Board. He will have the oversight of the sending out of literature and campaign ammunition from an arsenal of correct orthography which will be opened on April 1 in the building of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

Among the first things to be done by the executive officers of the Simplified Spelling Board will be to fire a broadside of three hundred words which are commendable to the public as representing the best and most scholarly spelling. Many of them are already spelled two different ways, and the simpler means of writing them will be recommended. If this attack takes effect there will be a few more attacks, but the intention of the Board to make haste slowly. It does not wish to prejudice its cause by making any radical departure, and it will follow public sentiment in the matter of spelling as much as possible.

TO ACT AS SCHOOLMASTERS.

"For the most part," said Dr. Scott, "we will be in the relation of schoolmasters to those who may not have given this subject much thought. The great trouble is that we do not study our spelling. We learn it in school in early youth and then give it no more attention with the exception of a few of us, who make a specialty of etymology. The ground is taken that everything may be changed but the spelling of



the English language. It is possible to change a man's politics or his religion by an appeal to reason, but spelling must always be the same.

"There is little inquiry as to what the present spelling originated and how the reasons for it are. The efforts to make changes in it are greeted in many quarters by opposition, mostly by persons who do not know the history of the language. Some of the orthography of the present day is the work of the proofreaders. If we could control about two hundred proofreaders in the principal newspaper offices and publishing houses of the United States we would soon accomplish something."

"The changes which have taken place in the spelling of words since Chaucer's time are far greater than those proposed by the Simplified Spelling Committee, and if the greater changes did not destroy the English language there are no rational grounds for supposing that the lesser will hopelessly destroy it. And if these lesser changes are open to the denunciation of Swinburne as being 'monstrous barbarous crudities,' what must we say of the changes made from the older spellings?"

HAGGARD'S VIEW FUNNY. But the funniest of all is the remark attributed to H. Rider Haggard:—"The language written by the translators of the Bible and Shakespeare is quite good enough." Evidently these English literary men are ill informed as to the history of their own language. Here is the way Shakespeare spelled:—

Ayre (air), beleue (believe), civil (civil), cuppe (cup), dieuell (devil), duckey (duck), tysche (fish), horrow (horror), musich (music), summe (sun), soldiders (soldiers), trewe (true), wife (wife).

And the following is the way the translators of the Bible spelled:—

"When he laive the people he went up into a mountaine, and when he had his disciples can into him and he opened

Names. The American Philological Association has adopted three hundred words for the simplification of 3,500 others.

FAVORS THE REFORM.

"The Modern Languages Association, which includes teachers of English as well as of the European languages, is in favor of this reform. The National Educational Association by a vote of 1,546 active members to 171 decided to appropriate \$2,000 annually to advance the cause of a simplified orthography. The Philological Society of England has committed itself to the same policy."

"In England the movement has the support of such men as Professor A. H. Sayce, the Oxford philologist; Professor W. W. Skeat, the distinguished etymologist, and H. Sweet, the well known old English scholar. The late Sir Alfred Tennyson and the late Max Muller were advocates of the simplified spelling. The great scholars of England are thoroughly in accord with the proposed reform. The only opposition which the simplified spelling meets in England is from that class of literary men who are no longer entitled to be called conservative, for they are simply ignorant of the history of language."

The outburst, according to cable, of some English literary men over the simplified spelling movement is quite funny.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is reported as saying that an improved version of the language might become universal, but it would cease to be the English language. Is the language of to-day any less the English language than it was in the days of Chaucer? The changes which have taken place in the spelling of words since Chaucer's time are far greater than those proposed by the Simplified Spelling Committee, and if the greater changes did not destroy the English language there are no rational grounds for supposing that the lesser will hopelessly destroy it. And if these lesser changes are open to the denunciation of Swinburne as being 'monstrous barbarous crudities,' what must we say of the changes made from the older spellings?"

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"When he laive the people he went up into a mountaine, and when he had his disciples can into him and he opened

his mouth and taught them saying:—Blessed are the poor in secrete, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourne, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meke, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."—Tintale's Bible, the principal basis of the authorized version.

Among other spellings then in vogue were Sundenall (Sunday), obeyne (obtain), suffre (suffer), maynteyners (maintainers), persecucion (persecution), sonnes (sons), bloudes (bloods), merittes (merits) and Godelde (God's).

That marked progress is now being made toward simplifying spelling there is ample evidence, as see chemical nomenclature, where many of the silent letters are being dropped. This is due to the efforts of the chemical section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which already has secured the almost universal adoption of simplified forms for such words as bromin, chlorid, morphin, quinin, sulfur, sulfid, etc. This action received the approval of Dr. H. W. Wiley, chemist of the United States Department of Agriculture, and many of the best known chemists.

SIMPLE PROPER NAMES.

Further progress has also recently been made in the simplification of the spellings of proper names by the United States Board on Geographic Names. Anam is now no longer spelled 'Annam,' Ekaterinburg is no longer 'Yekaterinburg,' Interlaken is no longer 'Interlahen,' Sakhalin is no longer 'Saghalien.' Many other names have been simplified and the simplifications find place in the publications issued from the United States Government Printing Office.

Max Muller condemned the present system of spelling in no measured terms. "It is, I believe," he said, "hardly necessary that I should prove how corrupt, effete, and utterly irrational the present system of spelling is, for no one seems inclined to deny that." * * * What, however, is even more serious than all this is not the great waste of time in learning to read and the almost complete failure in mental education, but the actual mischief done by subjecting young minds to the illogical and tedious drudgery of learning to read English as spelled at present.

"The question, then, that will have to be answered sooner or later is this:—Can this unsystematic system of spelling English be allowed to go on forever? Is every English child, as compared with other children, to be mulcted in two or three years of his life in order to learn it? * * * I do not believe or think that such a waste of things will be allowed to go on forever, particularly as a remedy is at hand. I consider that the sooner it is taken in hand the better." * * * There is motive power behind these phonetic reformers—I mean the misery endured by

Dr. Benjamin E. Smith, Editor of the Century Dictionary, Favors the Adoption of Logical Methods.

DR. C. F. G. SCOTT ON PRINTERS' ERRORS

millions of children at schools, who might learn in one year, and with real advantage to themselves, what they now require four or five years to learn and seldom succeed in learning at all."

CONTRASTS OTHER SYSTEMS.

Among other men whose voices have been raised in behalf of the children may be cited that of Dr. William T. Harris, United States Commissioner of Education, who attributes to the irregularities of English spelling the wide departure on the part of our elementary education from that of other countries where English is not spoken. He says:—"The German and Italy the child can correctly spell almost any word he hears or pronounce any word he sees after he has become familiar with the powers of the letter of his alphabet. Hence the foreigner spends a very small portion of time in learning to spell and read his own language, while if he would learn to spell our English language correctly he must give years of study to it." Commissioner Harris himself declares that if the simplification of spelling were carried out fully it would save from one and a half to two years in the school life of every child.

No sooner was the announcement of the Simplified Spelling Board's action made public than the school teachers took action to adopt the new forms. In Plainfield, N. J., the thirteen high schools immediately adopted them. Next we learn that a great manufacturing commercial house, with offices in the most important parts of the world, has already adopted the simplified spellings in all its establishments. Professor Brander Matthews, of Columbia University, has also adopted the simplified spellings advocated by the National Educational Association in a German grammar which he has recently published, and Professor Hemphill, of Michigan, is doing the same in a text book he is about to issue. Publishers and editors are giving energetic support to the simpler forms, with Henry Holt and Dr. William Hayes Ward in the lead.

Simplified spelling is not a fad of enthusiasts and cranks, but the result of the calm, cool judgment of the highest scholarship of the world—men whose culture and representative character entitles them to establish an Aeneas of letters to simplify our orthography.

VETERAN OF U. S. POSTAL SERVICE, 88 YEARS OLD, IS IN LOUISVILLE

Entered Service of the Government in 1843, and Has Never Since Lost a Day Except When on Leave of Absence—Still Active and Hearty.



John D. Strassburg, Oldest Post Office Employee in America.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Saturday.—Of the thousands who are employed in Uncle Sam's post offices the veteran is John D. Strassburg, the oldest man in service on the list. He is still at work in the Louisville Post Office, where he has been employed sixty-three years on March 15. It was on that day in 1843 that he applied to the postmaster of Louisville and was given a position.

He has been with the local office ever since and has never lost a day save on leave of absence. Mr. Strassburg was born in Germany and had just come to America when he secured this position. On June 2 he will be eighty-eight years old. He is as active as ever and expects to work for Uncle Sam for years to come.

Those who want to draw the age limit on government employees should have a look at Mr. Strassburg handling the mail in the Louisville office.

Louisville Courier-Journal.—The Tsar's "Give her a chair; give her two chairs," is considered worth sending over the world by the St. Petersburg newspapers; but "Take a chair, sir; take two chairs," as spoken by one Tennessee statesman to another, passed into classic before the Tsar was out of knickerbockers.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Get in Line! 3,000 of our graduates are now earning \$18,000 a day

Plumbing, Bricklaying and Plastering ARE WHAT WE TEACH.

\$100 Life Scholarship, \$25 THIS OFFER GOOD UNTIL APRIL 15.

Enroll To-Day—Secure Your Future.

GOYNE BROS. CO. TRADE SCHOOL,

230, 241, 243 10TH AV., CORNER 23TH ST., NEW YORK.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Consumption and Hemorrhages Cured

DOCTORS PRONOUNCED AS INCURABLE MISS MINNIE GILROY, OF MORRISON, COLO., WHO SUFFERED AGONIES FROM CONSUMPTION, HEMORRHAGES AND SEVERE COUGHING SPELLS. SHE WASTED AWAY TO A SHADOW AND HAD GIVEN UP ALL HOPE WHEN SHE DECIDED TO TRY DUFFY'S PURE MALT WHISKEY.

MISS GILROY BEGAN TO IMPROVE AT ONCE AND GAINED 15 POUNDS DURING THE FIRST TWO MONTHS. SHE IS TO-DAY HAPPY, WELL AND STRONG, AND WRITES THE FOLLOWING LETTER OF THANKFULNESS:—

"I suffered for a long time with consumption and had terrible attacks of coughing and hemorrhages. I lost flesh and was all run down. My breathing became difficult and painful, and the doctors pronounced me incurable."

"I decided at last to try Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey, and procured a bottle. I began to improve at once and gained fifteen pounds the first two months. My cough was relieved, the hemorrhages ceased, and I now feel splendid in every way. I can sleep soundly and have no more restless nights."

"I cannot say too much in praise of Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey, as it has permanently cured me after doctors' medicines failed to do me any good."—MINNIE GILROY.

Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey

cures coughs, colds, consumption, grip, bronchitis and pneumonia. It stimulates and enriches the blood, aids digestion, builds up the nerve tissues, tones up the heart and fortifies the system against disease germs. It prolongs life, keeps the old young and the young strong. It contains no fusel oil and is the only whiskey recognized as a medicine. This is a guarantee.

CAUTION.—WHEN YOU ASK FOR DUFFY'S PURE MALT WHISKEY BE SURE YOU GET THE GENUINE. INSORPULABLE DEALERS. MINDFUL OF THE EXCELLENCE OF THIS PREPARATION, WILL TRY TO SELL YOU CHEAP IMITATIONS AND MALT WHISKEY SUBSTITUTES, WHICH ARE POSITIVELY HARMFUL. DEMAND "DUFFY'S" AND BE SURE YOU GET IT. IT IS THE ONLY ABSOLUTELY PURE MALT WHISKEY. SOLD IN SEALED BOTTLES ONLY; NEVER IN BULK. LOOK FOR THE TRADE MARK, THE "OLD CHEMIST," ON THE LABEL, AND BE CERTAIN THE SEAL OVER THE CORK IS UNBROKEN. ALL DRUGGISTS AND GROCERS, OR DIRECT, \$1.00 A BOTTLE. MEDICAL BOOKLET AND DOCTORS' ADVICE FREE TO ANY ONE. DUFFY MALT WHISKEY CO., ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.

